

BCM

A Belgian J-culture Magazine
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Interviews

RinRin Doll

HIGHFeel

DJ SiSeN

**Fashion
& features**

Helcanen in Japan

Disneybounding

Otome kei



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Disneybound feature:

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Photography (by and provided by): Andy (UP! group), Dan Brace (Fab Five, Max Goof), Cate (Maleficent, Snow White), CoJo (balloons, Carl Fredrickson), Elle (Russell), Jon Fiedler (Max Goof parade shot), Hilde Heyvaert (Mad Hatter), Lunie (Donald Duck), Matthew (Donald Duck, Duffy the Disney Bear, Mickey Mouse), Megan (Minnie Mouse), Charlotte Ruddick (Cheshire Cat), Caro Unnewehr (Rapunzel), Bert Van den Wyngaert (Gelatoni)

Helcanen in Japan, Mount Fuji special: all photography by Helcanen (www.helcanen.be)

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we cannot and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 24th edition of BCM. Time wise this is about our 4th anniversary one, I know I say it all the time, but time really does fly. It feels like yesterday when the first edition (still named Belgian Cupcakes Magazine and still in Dutch) was released! This one is about right in time for the summer holidays, and to celebrate summer we bring you a feature on **otome kei**, a fashion suitable for all seasons, but that translates perfectly to summer. Our other fashion feature is about an international fun pastime: **Disneybounding**. We have photos from literally all over the globe! And we have an interview with international fashion icon **RinRin Doll**! She's going to be in Paris on early July, so if you can, drop by to say hi!

When it comes to music this time we spoke to **DJ SiSeN** at the awesome COALESCAREMONIUM event, we're also giving away a cheki signed by him, so if you're a fan, definitely check that out!

For those wanting to see more of beautiful Japan, Helcanen returns with another beautiful photo feature, focussing on the iconic **Mount Fuji** as well as the direct surroundings of Japan's most famous mountain.

A huge thank you goes to my entire team, all the contributors and of course to you dear reader, I hope you will enjoy this edition!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

Ne: aara: do



by ネバアランド

FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS A JUDGEMENT AS A CHILD!



nebaarando.com



There's some discussion going around about what *otome kei* exactly entails. A common misunderstanding is that it is "*simply lolita without a petticoat*". Whilst it is true that *lolita* and *otome* have their similarities and it is often quite hard to tell apart some *otome* and some casual *lolita* outfits, *otome* isn't intercompatible with every substyle of *lolita*. In fact, *otome* is one of the styles in which *lolita* as we know it today, found its roots back in the 1970s when it was very popular, as both styles focus on the girly, classic and often retro aspects in their silhouette. The main distinction between *otome* and *casual lolita* is mostly in the entire feel of the outfit, as *otome* tends to have a more quirky feel to it in the majority of coordinates. Even though many of *lolita* and *otome* brands release pieces that can double for both fashions, making it harder to tell them apart at first glance, they are two different fashions in their own right, despite similarities and shared garments.

The *otome* silhouette is largely the same as that seen in *lolita*. Skirts, JSKs, OTKs and cute preferably retro style, blouses, cute cardigans and cutsews. Petticoats are seldom used, and to be fair, are something kept for colder days as, let's be honest here, skirts used for *otome kei* and *lolita* are generally not known for keeping your upper legs and behind warm in winter. When a petticoat is used, it isn't very poofy, and more of an underskirt the same length as the skirt, more like a ballet petti. But of course it means you can get good use out of those completely deflated petticoats in winter. Aside from bell skirts, swing skirts and circle skirts of above knee length, combined with a retro blouse, can work with *otome*.

This makes the style especially appealing for summer days, as it is less demanding of layers that can easily cause overheating in the blistering heat. But the use of cardigans and cute classic winter coats and hats make it the sort of style that is comfortable and cute all year round.

Typical of *otome* are the large border prints, or all over prints in retro and classical styles. Think retro drawings from the 1930s – 1960s. Popular prints are chocolate and biscuit themes, fairy tales, antique and vintage drawings. If it looks like it could have escaped an olden day *Little Golden Book*, you're likely going to be good to go. Colours don't have to be quite as matched up as with *lolita*, and bold combinations that wouldn't generally be acceptable in *lolita* are perfectly normal for *otome*. The use of lace is more limited in *otome kei*, and outfits in which the only lace can be found on the socks, or lack lace full stop are completely normal. Colours can be bold as well as muted, pastels or a combination thereof.

Another thing specific to *otome* are the hairstyles and headwear. The beret is probably the most typical to this style, as is often the lack of a wig. A wig of course can be used, but if it is, it is generally a natu-

ral hairstyle. Vintage (style) hats, oversized floppy hats and cute hairbands are staple. Hair worn loose without any accessories, braids, ponytails held together with cute bands or scrunchies, it can all work with *otome*, as long as it's girly and cute and goes well together with your overall outfit.

Other accessories are cute umbrellas, quirky and retro jewellery, wide retro style belts or thin cute belts such as bow ones and vintage style eyewear, whether they are glasses or sunglasses. If you don't actually need glasses, don't be afraid to find a pair of clear lens non-prescription frames in the right style if that's something you like!

Footwear consists of *lolita* shoes, classic styles such as the mary jane, brogue, oxford or derby and shoes typical of 1920s – 1950s era fashion, as well as Victoriana style or classy (ankle) boots as well as far more extravagant shoes such as jelly sandals, cute sandals and open cut low shoes. When the weather is hot, bare feet are ok, even though rarely seen, and any cute socks or tights that match nicely are another given with this style. Whilst printed socks are popular, any kind of print is acceptable as long as the combination with the rest of your coordinate works. Plain coloured socks and tights are a-ok also, although when ankle socks are involved, cute prints are encouraged.

Even though in *otome kei* it is perfectly acceptable to wear cute retro style shorts (you can find those in plenty of high street stores this summer), it is very much a female style due to the girlyness of it. That said, there is absolutely no rule what so ever against guys wearing it, and with any other J-fashion style, men are welcomed to the style just as well, even though there is no specific male variant to it.

All of this makes *otome* a very accessible fashion, as many parts of it are quite easy to find. It is financially interesting as well as high street stores, thrift stores, online shops, as well as stores specialising in retro and vintage style clothing are all options to find affordable deals. For those that can sew, making your own skirts and dresses is definitely an option, as there are plenty of suitable fabrics available. Of course there are actual *otome kei* brands from Japan, most notably *Jane Marple*, *Emily Temple Cute* and *Leur Getter*. Other *lolita* brands such as *Innocent World* have also released pieces that could be used with *otome*, so it is definitely worth keeping an eye out on Japanese brands if you can, because you never know what they'll come up with.

Otome may seem like a deceptively easy to pull off style but, like many fashions, requires quite a bit of thought and consideration to actually make it work. That said, it is one of the most gratifying and fun styles out there because of the unique combination of quirkiness, classiness and girlyness with both vintage and modern twists and all round versatility.



Otome kei

*Mixing classic
with cute*





Blouse, Mexx. Dress, Innocent World. Bag, model's own. Tights, model's own. Shoes, Bodyline.



Hat, Dangerfield. Dress, Jane Marple. Necklace, Disney Couture. Brooch, Mintcloud. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, offbrand.



Hat, Metamorphose, Temps de Fille. Dress, Jane Marple. Tights, Innocent World. Shoes, Baby, the Stars Shine Bright. Bag and accessories, all offbrand.





Hat, offbrand. Dress, Jane Marple. Necklace, Jane Marple. OTK socks, Angelic Pretty. Shoes, offbrand.



Vintage hat, Marida London (thrifted). Cardigan, Primark. Blouse, Only. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Socks, Miss Zuing. Shoes, asos. Bag, Swimmer.



Headbow, Angelic Pretty. Cardigan, F.i.n.t, Dress, Emily Temple Cute. Necklace, Qpot. Socks, Angelic Pretty.



Cardigan, Primark. Cutsew, Leur Getter. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Socks, asos. Shoes, asos.



Scrunchie, offbrand. Cardigan, Zara. JSK, Angelic Pretty. Socks, Angelic Pretty, Jelly sandals, Juju Footwear. Bag, Angelic Pretty.



Cardigan, Primark, Blouse, asos. JSK, Strawberry Skies (World Fair). Brooch, Disney. Belt, Pieces. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, Sacha.



Hat, offbrand. Dress, Emily Temple Cute. Blouse, offbrand. OTK socks, Jane Marple. Shoes, offbrand. Bag and accessories, Angelic Pretty.



Floppy hat, customised ebay seller. **Brooch on hat**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Top**, Lulu Guinness for Uniqlo. **Skirt**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Socks**, ebay seller. **Shoes**, Sacha. **Mood ring**, asos. **Bag**, Angelic Pretty.



RinRin Doll

Bridging the gap between
Harajuku fashion
and the world

International model and Japanese fashion icon *RinRin Doll* is best known, all over the world, for her unique take on lolita fashion and modelling for several iconic lolita brands.

She was kind enough to take some time out of her very busy schedule to answer some questions for BCM about fashion, living in Japan and modelling.

You have said before that when you first encountered Lolita fashion in a *Gothic & Lolita Bible* back when you were a student, you were most drawn to the punk and gothic outfits. Are those things you would still like to wear now?

Laughs yes, those styles were definitely what I would have liked to wear when I was student. I wouldn't mind trying those styles out even now, but they're not the style of clothing that defines me at the moment. Not sure what styles I'll lean towards in the future, so I may actually go back to those styles as well!

You are very well known for being an *Angelic Pretty* model, which is your all time favourite *Angelic Pretty* print or piece?

I love *Angelic Pretty*'s *Wrapping Ribbon* print! I had modeled it during the catalogue and fell in love with it then. We usually don't get priority when it comes to buying items for ourselves. I love the fact that *Angelic Pretty* always puts their customers first! But I was so sad I wasn't able to get it before it sold out. My friends back home knew and for my birthday, they found it second-hand online. They all pitched in and sent it to me in Japan. Now the dress and print has even more meaning to it and I can appreciate it even more!

You're often completely dressed up, not just as a model for shoots, but also wearing lolita, what style do you like best when just staying home or as a casual fashion?

At home I'm like most people! I wear comfortable room wear when I'm at home. I work partly from home, so I tend to collect nicer sets of home wear in colors I like for when I need some motivation to work. But generally it's more about comfort than style. I used to say

my style outside of lolita clothing is a general *Harajuku* street wear, but recently people have been calling this style *neo-lolita*. Since my style is still a bit different from the usual *Harajuku* style, I'm happy there's a more specific word for what I wear. Generally, I keep the same hair and make-up that I do for when I wear lolita and I change my clothes and play with coordinates. I love how alive and fluid *Harajuku* fashion is and I'm really excited to see what this new style of fashion will bring.

You've lived in Japan for a couple of years now, which is the one thing you just can't get used to living there?

I love living in Japan and having the freedom and support to do what I love. However, I'm still trying to get used to the four separate seasonal changes and the fact that we need to walk everywhere. I'm originally from LA, so the humid summers and icy cold winters are really something to deal with when I moved to Japan. I've been spoiled my whole life with sunny days and mild cold that my first year here was miserable. I had no sense of how to layer up clothing or much less what types of clothing to own to protect from the cold or ensure skin breathability when it's hot. I'm getting the hang of what types of fabrics to wear during each season now and it's helped with my appreciation of clothing and fashion, but I still take some time to think and plan out my outfits *laughs*.

What is it that you miss the most about Japan when you are in the US and vise versa?

Whenever I'm home or abroad somewhere outside of Japan, I dearly miss non-sweetened tea and the fashion scene and whenever I'm in Japan, I miss American food!

You are active on various social media, which out of all of those is your favourite to use?

I'm currently using so many SNS I'm not sure what I have anymore, *laughs*! My main focus is on *Instagram*, followed by *Twitter*, *Facebook*, *Snapchat*, etc. I'm also putting a lot of work into *YouTube* these days.





Do you think it's essential for you to be well represented online?

Yes, I think as influencers we need to be well represented online especially in order to reach out to a world-wide audience. And since we're now in the quick information sharing and social media age, I need to constantly update and provide information in order to keep people interested and connected with my work. It not only helps people understand what kind of work I do in Japan, but also lets people have a glimpse into what it's like to live in Japan and be updated with the current fashion and make-up trends here.

Because of your presence online and in magazines, you have become an international fashion icon. How do you hope to inspire your fans with your personal style and YouTube videos?

I hope to bridge the gap between Harajuku fashion and the world through my Instagram and YouTube channel. My goals with my YouTube channel is to allow Japanese fashion lovers world-wide to not only see my daily life here, but also try first hand at the fashion and make-up through my tutorials. But simply, I just want to show everyone the Harajuku that I know and love!

Other than fashion, Japan is also known for music. Are there any Japanese bands or solo artists you really like?

I really love *Perfume* and *Capsule* for fun, pumped up music and *moumoon* for a more girly, relaxed music. I also love to listen to *Yanawaraba's* Okinawan music!

Models often get to travel, which has been your favourite place to go on assignment yet? Are there places or events you definitely still hope to visit one day, personally or professionally?

I honestly loved all the places I've gone to so far! I've been so lucky to visit so many countries and meet with all the lolita fashion lovers around the world. There's always never enough time to talk to everyone. It's my favourite part of all the tea parties and events! I've missed everyone I've met so far and I'd love to go back and visit again!

Several big international events are still coming up this year, such as Japan Expo in Paris, are you planning on attending any?

Yes, I'll be attending and reporting about Japan Expo, as well as appear as a guest at *Moshi Moshi Nippon* in LA, visit Hong Kong, and maybe a couple more places in the US. I'm so excited to meet more people and talk and get to know everyone!

When people think of Tokyo, they think of shopping, but of course there is much more to see and do in the city. Which are your must see recommendations to visit in Tokyo?

I'd recommend to also enjoy Japan's cultural side as well! You can visit *Asakusa*, *Meiji Shrine*, the *Imperial Palace*, and *Kamakura*; all four seasons are so beautiful here! For some nature parts of Tokyo you can visit *Inogashira Park*, *Yoyogi Park*, *Shinjuku Gyoen Park*, the *Hakone hot springs*!, etc. And there's also the famous metropolitan side of Tokyo like *Tokyo Sky Tree*, *Ameyoko*, *Shinjuku*, *Shibuya Scramble*, etc. Then there's the food... so much to do and explore and eat and have fun!

You recently posted a photo of yourself and friends visiting Disneyland on Twitter. Do you go to Tokyo Disney when you get a chance also?

I really don't visit *Disneyland* and *Disney Sea* as often as I'd like to! They're mainly reserved for special occasions or when friends are visiting out of town. Although, I do try to go when there are special events going on at the park.

What would your advice be to people wanting to get into modelling?

I would recommend to do a lot of research! Know as much as you can about the business side as well as the creative side of modelling. Also, since modelling is mostly about image, be confident in yourself! Eat healthy and exercise regularly but don't starve yourself. Practice expressing different emotions and poses. Ideally, know your strong points to remind yourself of them when you meet difficult times, and try not to take rejection personally; sometimes you don't fit the job criteria and that's okay! You're destined to be you and the client will hire you when they think you're a good fit. Bottom line: be confident in yourself!

Japanese summers are known to be proverbially hotter than hell, do you have any survival tips for people visiting Japan during the season?

Like I said, it took me a while to get used to the heat here. Actually I'm still in the process. I always, always, always carry on me a handkerchief, tissues, sunscreen, powder wipes, oil-blotting paper, make-up-lock mist, fold up fan, sun-umbrella, makeup touchup, and water/sports drink! And to go the extra mile, I would have some salt-candy to keep from dehydrating, mint cooling spray/gel to trick myself that I'm not boiling *laughs* and a light scarf or cardigan to keep my arms from being sun burned.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by RinRin Doll.
Photo credit: Tokyo Fashion (front cover, index, interview p. 2 & 3) and Andy Lu (interview p. 1).





Event: Swing into Spring
What: Disneyland Paris' spring celebration
When: March 1 - May 31 2015
Where: Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: depending on the formula
Website: www.disneylandparis.com

Having been introduced last year as a third annual season next to the long established (and recently revamped) festivities of Halloween and Christmas, spring came back to the park in March with quite a few tweaks and additions compared to what was offered to visitors the year before.

It was nice to see the colourful flowers and topiaries back on both *Town Square* and *Central Plaza* as well as *Rapunzel* greeting her fans out in the open air, even though she was moved to *Fantasyland* in order to free the location at *Casey's Corner* in *Main Street* for one of the big advertised novelties of this year's spring season: a meet & greet with *Thumper*, of *Bambi* fame, as well as his ravishing girlfriend *Miss Bunny*. Like *Rapunzel*, they had quite a queue of people eager to have their pictures taken with them, *Rapunzel* even started gathering a crowd long before the scheduled beginning of her meet & greet, just as she did last year. Also out and about was *Minnie Mouse* in her spring dress, who additionally hosted that once again repainted *Casey Jr.* train running down *Main Street U.S.A.* several times a day. Now sporting a bright and colourful *Easter* theme, it featured *Daisy Duck*, *Clarabella Cow* and *Clarice* the chipmunk alongside *Minnie* with *Thumper*, *Miss Bunny*, *Rabbit* from *Winnie the Pooh* and *Alice* in *Wonderland's* own *White Rabbit* riding on the second wagon. The tune accompanying them down the street really stuck with me because of its happy, energetic quality – I enjoyed it a lot!

Even though *Rapunzel* made a comeback for spring, last year's *Spring Promenade* didn't and instead was split up to create new entertainment in the shape of *Goofy's Garden Party* which combined a lot of new costumes for the dancers with brand new topiary floats as well as the painted cars and Disney characters that had partaken in the discontinued cavalcade, among them a lot of friends from the *One Hundred Acre Wood* as well as some familiar faces from *Wonderland* and other classic characters. The only absentees were *Mary Poppins* and *Bert* who got their own show, but more on that later.

While I enjoyed seeing *Donald* and *Daisy* waltz by and catching a glimpse of *Alice* and the *Mad Hatter*, this show did not have me particularly invested. The amount of characters was nice of course, but *Spring Fever* as a song still has not clicked with me as much as for example *Vive la vie* from the Halloween cavalcade or *Chante c'est Noel*. Dressing the dancers as flowers and topiaries respectively was a very nice idea but the colours on the finished costumes seemed a little bit aggressive to me. While I understand the appeal of using the brightest possible colours after a long grey winter I did not really get much of a springtime feeling out of this. The show was nice while it lasted, but did not make it on my must see again list, unlike that other show that was part of the festivities.

This is where we come back to the aforementioned *Mary Poppins*! Misleading everybody who had been to *Swing into Spring* the year before, her new show being presented on the *Royal Castle Stage* was called *Welcome to Spring*, just like the small spectacle taking place on *Town Square* last year with a group of couples in early 20th century clothing performing several springtime songs. Those lovely folks this year lost their original location (taken up by the *Jolly Holiday Band* greeting incoming visitors with live music) as well as their charming costumes, those being replaced with the designs that featured in last year's *Spring Promenade*. Also, they lost their springtime tunes as the new show sporting the old name ended up being *Mary Poppins* songs all the way – which is not bad at all, but surely false advertising. Performance and choreography were very nice as were the songs – there is a reason as to why *Mary Poppins* is still a very popular, much beloved classic. This new *Welcome to Spring* certainly was our group's favourite entertainment of the trip with the only slight let-down once again being the costumes.

But let's all be honest: the secret star of the spring festivities was the park itself! It is no secret Disneyland Paris has some outstanding gardening going on and walking among bright new spring flowers and under blooming trees adds its own kind of magic to the overall experience. Just witnessing Disneyland's plants come to life again is already a valid reason for a short trip in my opinion.

Add the variety of entertainment offered during spring, the good overall theming which goes all the way from magnificent topiaries to themed parasols for character meet & greets, a fruit carver doing demonstrations on the porch of *Plaza Gardens* restaurant or additional bands in locations like *Blue Lagoon*, the *Lucky Nugget Saloon* or even *Studio One*, which is not even in the same park but next door in *Walt Disney Studios Park*, and you end up having a whole list of reasons why spring season might be worth checking out. There's shows with tons of characters, shows with classic Disney music, a train with bunnies on it, a princess to meet, live musicians to applaud, decorations to take pictures of and even some special merchandise to take home as a souvenir... long story short: there is something for everybody so go and have a look at it next year!

Review and photography by Carolin Unnewehr.



Photographic impressions of DISNEYLAND PARIS' SWING INTO SPRING

March 1 - May 31, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris,
Marne-la-Vallée, France

Photography by Gaëtane De Waele.



J-FASHION MEET

Visiting the MOMU (Fashion Museum) for the
Dries Van Noten retrospective, Inspirations.

Sunday, March 29; Antwerp, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and a kind fellow visitor.



VIDE-DRESSING HARAJUKU

J-fashion shopping event

Sunday, April 5; Liège, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Event: Coalescaremonium
What: Gothic happening
When: Saturday, April 11 2015
Where: Bouche à Oreille, Etterbeek, Belgium
Ticket price: € 36 in presale, € 40 at the door.
Website: www.coalescaremonium.info

Coalescaremonium is an annual Gothic happening that takes place in a revamped monastery near Brussels. Every year they set a new theme, this year's was *Industrial Decadence*. The organisation always does a great job planning around the general theme to create a varied and most excellent event.

The strength of *Coalescaremonium* is that the team behind the event takes a long and hard look at the previous edition, and improves on every single thing they think needs improving, making each edition better than the next year after year. When they think something can be done better, they will do it better the following edition, which makes that many look forward to the next edition even having a fantastic time on the current one.

Their other ace in the hole is the atmosphere. Whilst it is an upscale event, it is incredibly open-minded. You'll see people dressed up in elaborate Gothic designs, people that clearly put something fabulous together for the event, people from all Gothic substyles, but also other subcultures such as steampunk, Japanese fashions, as well as people that simply show up in a suit or dressed in black. Even though there is a dresscode, if you clearly show that you belong to the scene and genuinely want to be there, you'll be allowed entrance. And it's utterly fantastic to see such a great mix of people and subcultures together. It immediately creates a wonderful and extremely friendly atmosphere.

This year they had changed the entrance from the one side of the venue to the other, and it worked much better! Last year when you got in you had to drag your stuff through the entire venue, which wasn't the most practical if you carried a lot of things. This year you went straight into the area with the photo corner, the cloakroom and plenty of tables where you could sit down for a bit. There were also some shops in the room right next to it, and more tables. It was a nice, quiet and cozy area. To my knowledge nothing got stolen last year, but this year the cloakroom was guarded, which was nice.

The side room upstairs had some art on display and would be used as a little cinema later. There wasn't loads of room but plenty for the people that wanted to watch things and that's all that matters. There was also plenty of seating in the main room (still leaving more than enough of room for dancers) and some in the smaller club room as well as outside. There were also a lot of tables you could simply lean at and two bars inside, which meant people never had to wait ages for a drink as well, and a well-organised food stand outside where you could get hamburgers, cheeseburgers and vegetarian burgers. For the rest there were cupcakes, which looked the same as last year I believe.

There is also no issue with people bringing their own food because of dietary requirements either, the organisation is very understanding. There was SO MUCH choice in drinks, omg! Organic juices, non-organic juices, sodas, waters, beers, wine, I think cava as well. And then coffee and tea downstairs. And all at very reasonable prices. You could get a drinks card that was € 10 with 10 squares. Sodas, juices and waters were at 2 squares (so € 2) and burgers were 4. So for € 6 you could buy a meal with a drink. And basically on one card you could get a meal and 3 drinks (if you didn't take alcohol, which was more expensive). An added bonus was that per drinks card, you were given a lottery ticket. Each lottery ticket gave you a chance to win a ticket to alternative music festival *Eurock*, which was a nice gesture.

Another awesome thing was the general program. There was non-stop DJing going on in the smaller club room, they aired a lot of movies, the photo corner was active for the entire duration of the event, and they had several events on the main stage, ranging from Burlesque with the *Candy Coated Circus*, to bands, a fashion show and *DJ SiSeN* and *DJ Alchemy* doing an all star set. The complete program is also on their website, so people can easily plan their day there beforehand. And for those that don't really look at these things beforehand they made sure to put a program up on every table, and they checked to see if they needed replacing in case people took them as a souvenir (which was allowed). Not just that, but the team also made it a point to remind people something was going to happen in the main hall in a timely fashion before it did, so no one missed out on something they wanted to see.

And for those that still didn't get enough at the 3pm to 2am main event, there was an afterparty going 'till 7am at a secondary location, the *Hyperion Esport Bar* in the center of Brussels, to which the organisation provided free transport to.

Coalescaremonium Industrial Decadence was a fantastic Gothic event, more than well worth the ticket price, and we already look forward to next year's edition.

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of
**COALESCAREMONIUM,
INDUSTRIAL DECADENCE**

Saturday, April 11; Le Bouche à Oreille, Etterbeek, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Event: Antwerp Convention
What: Pop culture convention
When: Saturday, April 26 2015
Where: Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: www.antwerpconvention.be

For the 5th year in a row, *Antwerp Convention* took up a significant part of *Antwerp Expo*. Quite a few people were already gathered outside well before the doors opened, which is a testament of how much people adore this event. Last year, due to the sudden influx in popularity, getting in was a bit daunting and required rather a lot of patience, the organisation promised that this year situations like these would not reoccur and they made good on that promise. Instead of using both doors on one entrance to the Expo, they set up one entire entrance for people that had not yet purchased a ticket, and another entrance, slightly down the road, was opened for those that already had their ticket, with another desk for press, vips and guests. It was all very clear and very well organised, and frankly this was the best set-up I have ever seen at a convention. Considering the amount of cons I've been to, that's saying something. The info desk had moved this year, but was easy enough to find, and there people could take home a souvenir flyer and grab a program map of the event. Or simply ask questions. First aid was also well set-up and easy to find should people have need for it. There were several toilets open in both the lobby and the halls and dressing rooms for cosplayers that didn't feel like arriving and/or leaving in costume were also made available.

The organisation doesn't stop at providing utilities and facilitating entry. They also make sure to set up the most well-rounded convention of its kind (and probably in general also) that Belgium has to offer. Antwerp Convention isn't just an event that's only fun to visit if you are intending to shop, or to meet a certain guest, it's also somewhere where you can discover new things, hang out with your friends and see and experience all kinds of fun things without spending a cent more than your entrance fee and travel costs.

Sure, you can shop there, it is a convention after all. They have stalls that you see at many other events as well as some you only see here. Not only the current hype is for sale, but also vintage toys and comics and rare items are on offer. And if you look hard enough, you can find some real gems at very decent prices. There's a very wide variety of shops, ranging from collectibles, toys, books, comics, costume bits and pieces, home decor and (Asian) food items.

Speaking of food, this is one of the few events where food is very decently priced. There is also an amazing offer spread out over the entire convention. You can get sandwiches, Asian food, hot dogs and burgers, ice cream, and both in vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. I'm not sure whether or not there were vegan options, but in any case, no one will look at you funny when you bring your own food and drinks. Because at a big event table space can run out fast, even though it is provided in both halls, they also cleared several mats to create a seating space for people that wanted to have a bit of a breather.

When not having a rest, shopping or having a bite to eat or something to drink, there was so much to do. Robot wars, wrestling, gaming, meeting guests (note: not all guests needed to be paid for autographs, at some stands you could meet people and have signed things for free, you also didn't have to purchase on site, you were welcome to bring along previously bought copies also) or watching the cosplay competition, amongst other things. *Star Wars* groups brought not only costumed entertainers, but also a myriad of droids, who had their own photo opportunity location. *The Belgian Whovians U.N.I.T.E.D.* brought their *TARDIS* along and provided photo opportunities there, *Marvel Belgium* had set up their *Marvel Bus*, a *Tolkien* group did free hair styles of Middle-Earth, there were gaming rooms and then much more than I can sum up here.

Sure, the convention was super crowded the first couple of hours, but whilst there were crowds and the pace of getting around was slow, it didn't give a feeling of being trapped in a total mass of people. You could still see stands, it wasn't so that you were pushed away by others that also wanted to have a look. Sure, sometimes you had to be a little patient, but people were friendly and cordial and even though it was busier than ever, that same friendly atmosphere that Antwerp Con had going for it the very first year was still present. Despite the growth, people still go to have a good time together and that shows. Once the lunch rush had passed, however, quite a few people went home, and it was really pretty easy to get around. So for those that don't much like crowds, if you go around 1.30pm, you can still enjoy hours of convention time but get around much easier. Several shops also offered a pick-up service, and Antwerp Convention does a great job listing guests and shops on their site, so you can easily look them up and contact them to reserve items for pick-up, this avoids people having to be there super early to snatch a particular item from those shops.

Once again, the team behind Antwerp Convention proved why they are not only at the Belgian top, but quite possibly the European top also of popular culture conventions, with sheer outstanding organisation when it comes to the basics, a great and varied program and fantastic, warm and friendly atmosphere. It didn't matter whether you were a cosplayer, visitor in regular clothes, obvious geek of whichever fandom, you could find something to your liking. We're curious to see what they'll come up with next year, and which guests they'll line up for their 6th edition!

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Photographic impressions of ANTWERP CONVENTION

Sunday, April 26; Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Whovians Belgium U.N.I.T.E.D.



Free Comic Book Day

AT MEKANIK STRIP

Saturday, May 2; Antwerp, Belgium

Free Comic Book Day is a global event that takes place every first Saturday of May. Because comics are a pop culture thing world wide, we decided to include it this year!

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



J-FASHION MEET AT THE ROYAL GREENHOUSES

Sunday, May 3; royal palace domain, Laeken, Belgium

Photography by Björn De Weerd (group shot) and Hilde Heyvaert.





Photographic impressions of **VAPORIUM RUHR**

May 9 - 10, Industriemuseum Zeche Hannover, Bochum, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.





Photographic impressions of **WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN** IN GENERAL AND VIONA'S VICTORIAN VILLAGE.

May 22-28, various venues throughout all of Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Witz.



Photographic impressions of DISNEYLAND PARIS' FROZEN SUMMER FUN

June 1 - September 13, Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Bert Snyers.



Photographic impressions of the **SUMMER TALES BOUTIQUE TEA PARTY** "A WALK IN THE MUSEUM"

Sunday, June 14; Summer Tales Boutique HQ, Houten, The Netherlands.

Photography by and provided by Babs Barning.



Helcanen in Japan

mount fuji and surroundings





Oshino Hakkai

8 ponds in Oshino city near Kawaguchi lake



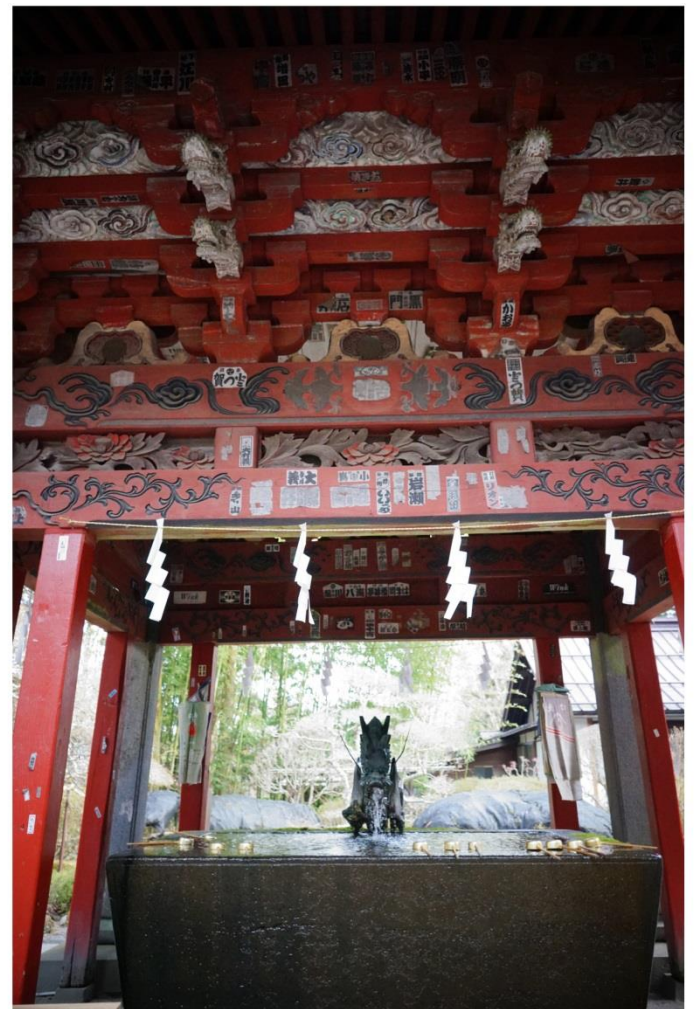
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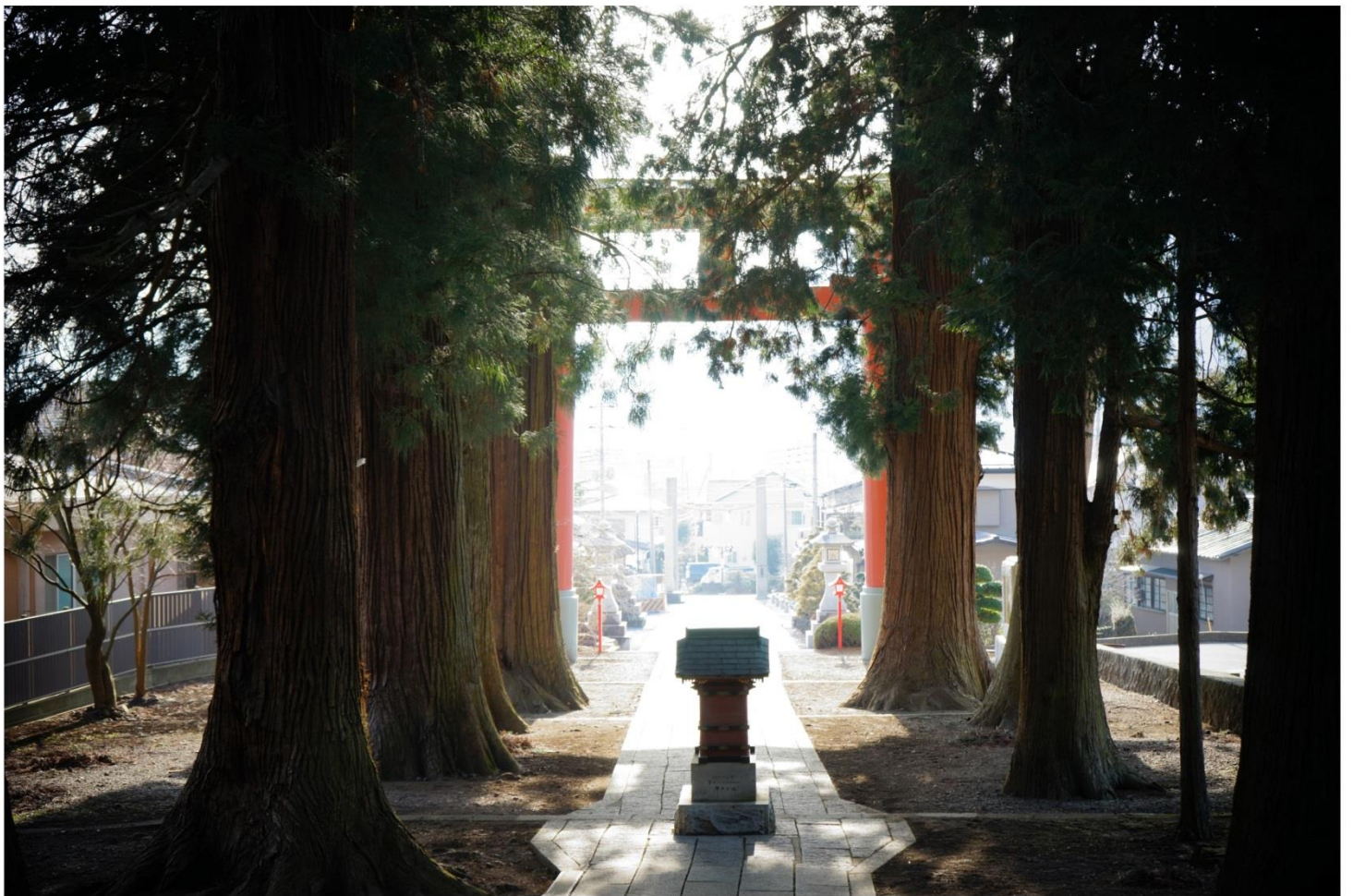












Kawaguchi Asama shrine



dragon fountain at the kawaguchi asama shrine



kachikachiyama ropeway at mount tenjō to get a high-up view of mount fuji



Kawaguchi lake

J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Entralls
"Issyokusokuhatsu"
Single
Genre: electro pop
Release date: 24.6.2015

This one song release by *Entralls* is an iTunes exclusive (seriously people, contrary to popular belief there is more than iTunes when it comes to music!), making it at least easily available for people all across the globe. The thing with Entralls is that they are musically extremely strong, *Issyokusokuhatsu* is once again proof of that. The downside is that the singer's voice isn't very stable, and unlike many other bands it's not charming when she goes off key. She is improving slowly, and with the right vocal training she could be a really good vocalist, but right now the band hasn't reached a good harmony between vocals and instruments yet. If you like slightly off singing with up beat electro pop however, you may want to check this out regardless.



NoGoD
"Voyage ~10th ANNIVERSARY BEST ALBUM"
Full album
Genre: heavy metal

Fans are really getting a treat with this double album, celebrating the 10th anniversary of Japanese metal band *NoGoD*. This collection of 25 songs in total is not only a reminiscence of past works by the band, but also a good way to introduce their music to people that aren't quite as familiar with their music yet. It's also an opportunity to see the path before the band came to their last album full of new works they released last year. You could say *Voyage* is the prequel to *Make a New World* in a sense. Of course, as is the case with a best of album, not all songs are the same quality, as bands that have been performing together tend to get better and better, such is also the case with *NoGoD*, but regardless of that, it is a solid metal album, and vocalist Dancho proves again that his original sound adds to setting *NoGoD* slightly apart from others within the genre. BCM's favorite track: Frontier



Scandal
"Greatest Hits – European selection"
Full album
Genre: punk-pop

This particular greatest hits album sets itself apart because not only was it released specially for the European market via *JPU Records*, it was also compiled by JPU's *Tom Smith*, so it is as European as a Japanese band release will ever get. And it needs to be said that Tom did a splendid job choosing the 15 songs for this particular release. It's a great mix of *Scandal* works from their entire career, making for a perfect introduction to the band, or a neat collection of past works for those already familiar with the band. It also proves why *Scandal* is so much on the rise as a band, because they are definitely some of the most talented artists in their particular genre and style.

BCM's favorite track: DOLL



Momoiro Clover Z
"Pledge of Z"
Single
Genre: J-pop
Release date: 29.4.2015

Momoclo returns with their particular brand of upbeat and energetic J-pop in this new 4 song single release, celebrating an anime many of us grew up with: *Dragon Ball Z*.

The band does a great job bringing us songs that do the anime proud, matching it perfectly, as well as keeping their own particular style present. A definite recommendation for fans of both! The only negative that can be said about this release is that it's only two real tracks as the other two are instrumental versions. Still cool of course, but when *Momoiro Clover Z* is involved, more is definitely better. If you can, get the copy with the music video included, as that one is one of the better and most fun clips currently out there!

BCM's favorite track: [Z]NO CHIKAI

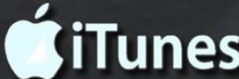
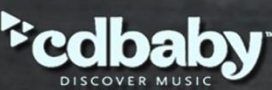


SEASON OF GHOSTS COMBINE
EXTREME ROCK AND METAL
SOUNDS, HARSH ELECTRONICS
AND POWERFUL, COMPELLING
VOCALS, THROUGH THE EERIE
SPECTRUM OF A SCI-FI,
HORROR MOVIE SOUNDTRACK.

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SEASON OF GHOSTS - THE HUMAN PARADOX
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IN DIGIPAK AND DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

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 <http://seasonofghosts.com/>  <https://www.facebook.com/SophiaSamaOfficial>  https://twitter.com/Sophia_Sama

DJ SISEN

3rd strike



DJ SiSeN was back in Belgium for a DJ set at **COALESCAREMONIUM, Industrial Darkness**, for the third time in a row and was warmly welcomed by many that were happy to see him return to the country and join the party.

At a quiet moment we sat down together at a table in the comfortable lounge area to catch up and have a bit of fun with the (instant) camera.

Tonight you are doing something different for COALESCAREMONIUM, you are doing a sort of all-star set together with DJ Alchemy, how did you come to collaborate?

I know her from the past, we actually both performed her last year also, but both solo. I absolutely love her style and the way she performs her DJ sets and we both like the same music. I'm very happy to collaborate on this set tonight *smiles*.

Did you rehearse your set beforehand? Or will you just start performing off the beat and completely natural later tonight?

No, it'll all be straight from the heart. I think that makes for the best sets that way *smiles*.

Coalescaremonium is a more high-end Gothic happening, where people do their best to dress accordingly. Do you put together special outfits for events like this, taking the theme to heart?

It depends really. I really like this concept: *Industrial Decadence*, and the colour red that goes with the theme. It really appeals to me, and as I feel like the organisation is one big family I'm a part of, I was happy to participate in this theme and wore red too. I usually like different colours, especially blue, green and purple so this is a nice change and I'm really enjoying it.

You've visited Belgium several times now, which is your best memory of visiting the country?

I'm actually always the happiest when I'm seeing my friends again, so those would be all my best memories combined together *smiles*. This time I'm staying in Belgium 'till Monday, and whilst tomorrow I'll be dead, which is always the case after an event like this *laughs* I definitely hope to be able to see the *Atomium* on Monday. I've already seen it from the outside when I visited the area, but I've not seen it inside yet, I think it will be really cool.

Foreigners often only think of waffles, French fries and beer when they think of Belgium, how would you describe Belgium to Japanese people that have never been here?

Chuckles the Japanese do know all the traditional things like those three, but also things like *Manneke Pis*. But they don't know that he also has a female counterpart in *Jeanneke Pis*. So I tell them about things like that. I actually quite actively inform people about cool things I come across in places I'm visiting on my blog. I love discovering new things and learn about them. Belgium is very unique. In Japan people just speak Japanese, but here in Belgium people generally speak more than one language, and the country has three national languages to start with, that's so much more diverse. I want to see more of Belgium for sure, I'd love to see the country- and sea sides.

You are very well known for wearing many different styles of J-fashion. Which style is your personal favourite and why?

It depends really on time and occasion. I really like aristocratic fashions right now, but with my own twist. I was actually really into this kind of style 10-15 years ago and now I'm revisiting it, but my style has definitely evolved in those years *smiles*.

Europe is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with Japan. Do you think something like that will influence you personally?

No, not really. I am in Berlin on an artist visa, and I have no trouble importing what I need from Japan, so for me personally I don't think anything will change. I do, however, think that a trade agreement will be a very good thing because it will be easier for people to get acquainted with each other's culture. And maybe the Japanese community in Berlin I am part of will grow bigger. It's already full of unique people, so maybe more will come and join us.





When we spoke last year you talked a little about the situation in Japan after the tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster. Could you tell us a little about how things are now?

It happened four years ago now, so people are sadly starting to forget and that's definitely not a good thing. The government and media don't talk about the issues nearly enough and that's a shame. People need to be encouraged to talk and think about it as we really need to make changes. We can't go on the way we are right now. I recently DJ'ed at the anti-nuclear demonstration in Berlin actually. The Germans are totally different than the Japanese, they are really opening the debate about nuclear power and moving away from it. How are things in Belgium?

Sadly not very good at all. We have a lot of issues with outdated nuclear power plants, especially *Doel 3* and *Tihange 2* keep on having to be closed down because of issues, and yet some politicians want them to stay open longer and longer instead of properly investing in renewable energy such as solar and wind power. It's like they learned nothing from *Tsjernobyl* and *Fukushima* and something like that needs to happen here too before they realise that it's a dangerous situation.

Hopefully they'll realise they are wrong before it gets that far.

(editor: at the time this interview was published a political debate was still ongoing whether or not to keep the dangerous and outdated nuclear reactors of Doel and Tihange in Belgium open for 10 additional years, regardless of the dangers that come with it).

Is the need for global change something you try to pass along on in your music?

Yes absolutely! I don't specifically bring it into my music and sets, and even though I don't usually get involved in politics, I would immediately perform at an anti-nuclear demo like I did in Berlin again if the opportunity arises for me to participate.

On a closing note we have a much lighter question: Japan is known for its boiling hot summers, do you have any survival tips for people visiting the country during the summer?

Laughs yes it definitely is very, very hot. But it's definitely not all bad! There are quite a bit of positive things to visiting Japan in summer actually. It's a good time to visit *matsuri*, local festivals. Buy a *yukata* and go play with the little fireworks. You can let them go off in your hands, they're not dangerous at all if you stick to the safety measures, just really fun. And you can hear the *semi* bugs chirp! They are big bugs, and look a little like a cockroach, but they aren't disgusting and don't bite at all. They are a kind of cicada I think. Another great thing to experience are all the special dishes for summer, such as the *kakigouri* dish, which is sweets in ice cream, it's really good! We also have a cold noodle dish called *hiyashichuuka* which is absolutely worth trying. Summer in Japan has definite upsides to the heat *smiles*.



Find DJ SISEN online:

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/SiSeN

Blog: profile.ameba.jp/djsisen

Twitter: twitter.com/DJSiSeN

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ありがとうございます😊



Win a cheki photo signed by DJ SiSeN

When we met up with DJ SiSeN for an interview at COALESCAREMONIUM where he was doing a DJ set we took a cheki photos that she kindly signed.

The cheki looks much nicer in person, my scanner is sadly still acting up at the moment ><

Of course we are not keeping this for ourselves, no we are offering it up in a cheki competition! All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win a signed cheki of DJ SiSeN. You can write something, draw something, do whatever you please, just keep it safe for work and something that fits in an email attachment as you'll have to email your submissions to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com.

I will then pick one lucky winner who will receive the signed cheki by mail.

Deadline for the submissions is September 24th, so you have ample time to come up with something. The winner will be personally notified after deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki.

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, so please be patient for the results as they may take a while to be released.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-post, and we are by no means responsible if the post screws up.

They haven't so far when it comes to sending cheki all over the globe but you know, we like to mention this in advance. Also B-post can take several weeks to deliver outside of Belgium, so if the winner is foreign, they will have to practice patience. B-post is sadly especially slow when it has to go outside of Europe, so letters may take anything from a few days to a few months.



Aurélie Vandecasteele has been a driving force in bringing Japanese bands to European audiences for nearly 10 years now. Previously the mastermind behind *Râmen Events*, and currently the leading lady, partnering with *Shota Yokoyama* of *ADAMS*, of *HIGHFeEL*, we sat down with her to talk about all kinds of things Japanese.

Some questions to get to know you better:

How did you discover your passion for Japanese music and how did you end up in the J-music business?

Well initially my passion for Japan was more with the general popular culture but eight years ago, when I was still working as a reporter for *L'Avenir*, a Belgian newspaper, I went to a convention in Paris. We didn't have that kind of convention in Belgium at the time, so for a piece about Japanese popular culture, I went there instead. That's where I met *Xavier Norindr*, who was at the time running his own record label with Japanese artists. We ended up working together, with me writing press releases for his artists and I kinda rolled into it like that and really got to know all the different Japanese music. Eventually we created *Râmen Events* together to also start organising tours and concerts back in 2007 and it all went from there.

Are you a musician yourself?

No, not at all. I never really had the time to put into mastering an instrument, or at least getting good at it, so I never started learning. I was always more into dance. I still prefer to dance over playing an instrument *smiles*.

Which is your personal favourite Japanese band or artist?

ADAMS *laughs*. But yes, of course I would say that, for personal reasons *smiles*. Even before I got active in the Japanese music industry, I listened to *Ken Ishii*, who of course does very different things as a DJ of global fame. He was very big late 90s. I also like *MUCC* a lot, I even went to see their shows a few times. And some really old, classic Visual Kei bands like *Malice Mizer*. But I can also appreciate newer bands like *Perfume* because their music is fun and fresh.

Some questions so we get to know HIGHFeEL better:

The phrase "100% open-minded, sensitive, empathic" has a central spot on the HIGHFeEL website. Why did you choose that catch-phrase specifically?

That phrase is very important to us. Because *HIGHFeEL* is ran by just *Shota* and myself, and we are only a two man company, without the funds and resources big companies have, we want to offer the artists that sign with us something different, and extra. As the entire team, which is of course far bigger than just *Shota* and myself, is like a family, we want to offer our artists that same friendship and family feeling that the team has amongst themselves. So that added value we offer that they can't get anywhere else, is that real relation with the people they've signed with, as well as trust and proper friendship. So that's why we chose that particular catch-phrase, because it represents what we have to offer.

Do you hope that HIGHFeEL will continue to grow and turn into a big company?

Hopefully, of course, but not to a point where we would have to give up on our values. Some of our artists genuinely have it in them to become very big, and of course we will strive and do whatever possible to help them get there, but we don't want to get to the point where we lose the relationship with them that *HIGHFeEL* stands for.

HIGHFeEL is based in both Tokyo and Belgium. Does the link with Belgium have an influence on how Japanese people react to the company, and vice versa?

It doesn't influence how the Japanese feel about *HIGHFeEL* at all because they don't have a clear idea about Belgium other than the things they generally know about us, the standard popular facts. But

the other way around, contact with Japanese artists has gotten much easier. Because *Shota* is based in Tokyo, and speaks Japanese, I am never without a translator. And what's even better: he can meet with artists face to face, so that is definitely a bonus that makes things a lot easier.

Artists can audition through your website by sending in mp3 files. Do you have any tips for aspiring musicians who wish to audition for your company?

It doesn't need to be perfect, it just has to be very well presented and original. We're not looking to sign a band that is much like many other bands that are already out there, so mainstream artists are out. We are a small company, so we are looking to represent original and fresh artists that have something to offer that others don't. So if it's new, original and interesting, *Shota* and I may very well be interested. Presentation is everything, if we get a nice package with good photos that is original, that definitely helps. That's why *ADAMS* is so successful in Europe, they were completely different than other Japanese bands, presented themselves well, with lots of really good quality photos and a well thought out concept, and that's what appeals to people.

How do you think the European J-music scene will evolve in the coming years?

I think it will go two ways. On one hand I feel that interest in Japanese music is returning somewhat. Not to the level of the height of its popularity back in 2008 - 2009, but it's better than it has been for a while. Of course the big bands such as *Dir en Grey* will always be popular, and probably will continue to come to Europe for dates. But on the other hand there is a rise of bands that are different and original and far from the mainstream Japanese music that people immediately think of when they hear "J-music". If it's new and different, then that band or artist has a chance to come and be successful in Europe. New bands that are mainstream, however, have much less of a chance, because their place is already taken by the popular names that have been around for much longer and already built their fan base. People want both what they know, and to discover things that are completely different it seems.

Is J-music becoming more mainstream in Belgium or do you feel like it's still rather niche?

I'm afraid it's still very niche. I don't think it will ever become very popular in Belgium. People have tried and did their very best, even to bring big bands and artists such as *Kyary Pamyu Pamyu* and *D*, and even big names like that, with some promotion, were stuck playing in small clubs, whereas in other European countries they were selling out much bigger venues. If a promoter and organiser are faced with the choice between a small club in Belgium that may or may not sell out and a much larger venue in another country that is likely to sell out, they won't make the gamble with Belgium. There's also an issue where mainstream media refuse to pick up on it, and it's hard to make promotion for the concerts outside of the J-culture and J-music scene. So properly promoting the concert is hard, especially if you're on a budget, which is often the case with these concerts.

Some questions about artist projects both past and upcoming:

You are currently preparing the tour of X Made Alcoholic Santa-claus, can you tell us a little more about that?

Yes! It's going to be a bit of a funky tour, I can tell you that already. But in a good way of course *grins*. The tour is produced by myself and *Shota*. *Shota* and *Charlie*, the band's leader, have been friends for absolute ages and *Charlie*'s wanted to come to Europe for a tour with *XMAS* for pretty much as long as the band exists, and the timing is finally right. This tour will be an introductory promo tour to introduce *XMAS* in Europe,



How has working with XMAS been so far?

It's been good! At first it was a little different of course, but once I started to book and the fan base picked up on it, things really started to gain momentum. It's only going to be a two week tour and I've booked venues in France, Belgium and Germany so far and hopefully a lot of new dates will follow. We're looking to have the band perform in metal venues across Europe, and they themselves hope to perform with local bands, so if anyone has suggestions, would love to perform with them, please don't hesitate to contact me via email!



X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus, or XMAS for short, will be on tour in Europe later this year, and will release their full album via HIGHFeel as well.

The ADAMS SEXPLOSION TOUR has just finished after three months of touring through Europe. How did it go?

Very well! Of course, as it was a three month tour, we were all completely dead by the end of it, which was to be expected. Sometimes it was hard, like when the car ended up total loss and we were without one for the last month. But we made it work and learned a lot from it. Overall it was great but exhausting *smiles*. The most important thing we learned is that it's time to move out of Europe and go global with ADAMS, we want to broaden the band's horizon and make sure their popularity is spread beyond just Europe. We are very close to the fans and that's awesome, we love meeting them, but it's time for ADAMS to meet some new people. Of course, the band will still come to Europe, they'll just go to other continents as well.

Working with ADAMS must have left you with some interesting stories to tell. Would you mind sharing one?

One German fan is an amazing embroidery talent. She came up to us on the very last show of the tour, and offered this huge, flag sized, embroidered portrait of ADAMS to the guys as a gift. She told them she started on it last year, and it took her about 2000 hours to finish. It is so lifelike, amazing and just utterly perfect! I am not exaggerating, it is stunningly beautiful and the most amazing gift that will be cherished forever *smiles*. I'm sure it will be proudly displayed! What was also really nice is that some girls came to like 20 out of the 31 shows, so we saw friendly and familiar faces at most stops on the tour. Their dedication is both amazing and just so nice *smiles*.

HIGHFeel's division REALive has been around for over half a year now. How have your experiences working on REALive been?

Well to be honest what I'm doing with REALive is the same as what I did with Râmen Events *chuckles*. We've had some great artist experiences, so it's been pretty good so far *smiles*. Hopefully things continue to go like this!

REALive is also producing one of the Mikaru - G.L.A.M.S.'s concerts in Luxembourg. Could you tell us more about it?

Well the tour is organized by my good friend Anne Prevost of Râmen Sho, and I am of course happy to help out both her and Mikaru if I can. As far as Luxembourg is concerned, I have family there and a great working relationship with the venue, as I have booked artists there for years now. So it was just more practical for me to produce that particular stop on the tour for logistic reasons.

Editor: Mikaru will perform at Rock Box in Luxembourg on July 3rd. For the other dates, please check the BCM calendar of this edition.

ADAM's photographer Ryota Sakai had his first German exhibition on the 26st of March in Düsseldorf. How did it go?

It was good! His exhibition was part of a fanclub only event on the ADAMS Sexplosion tour. The band also played a showcase, Adam was playing at being master of ceremony, and there were members of the press. He was asked to give his first interviews, which was quite something for him as he's very shy *smiles*. But it went well and there was a lot of interest for his work. It was different from him showing his work in France last year, as those were more gallery style showings, but it was good and fun nonetheless. I'm hoping to set up more gallery showings for him in Europe in the future because he is a very talented photographer.

Are there any other projects our readers get to look forward to, aside from the upcoming XMAS tour?

ADAMS' very first world tour is underway. It's a work in progress at this point, no dates are out yet but we plan to come back to Europe for some of the dates of course. Aside from that we also hope to go to North and South America and have an Asian leg of the tour. A new release is also planned, containing old material as well as new songs and remixes. For the remixes Shota is currently meeting with a lot of artists and DJs in Japan. Aside from that he is meeting with a lot of artists that are interested in working with HIGHFeel, so hopefully we will be able to add new members to our ever growing family soon. And of course we will continue to work with Araya, who came to Europe for a few dates at Made in Asia and Japan FM in Paris last March. Hopefully she is coming back to Europe next year also. So there's a lot of interesting things in the works right now, a lot to look forward to *smiles*.

Find HIGHFeel online:

Website: www.highfeel.jp

Facebook: [Facebook.com/highfeelofficial](https://www.facebook.com/highfeelofficial)

Twitter: twitter.com/HIGHFeel_JAPAN

To submit questions or send in an audition for HIGHFeel, contact Aurélie at aurelie@highfeel.jp

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen.
Photography provided by HIGHFeel (XMAS), Aurélie (selfie) and Ryota Sakai (ADAMS).



Thank You for your
support, everyone!

See you on tour!

HIGHFEEL
Adele

DISNEYBOUND

where fashion and
much loved characters
meet





CHESHIRE CAT

Alice in Wonderland, animated movie, steampunk version

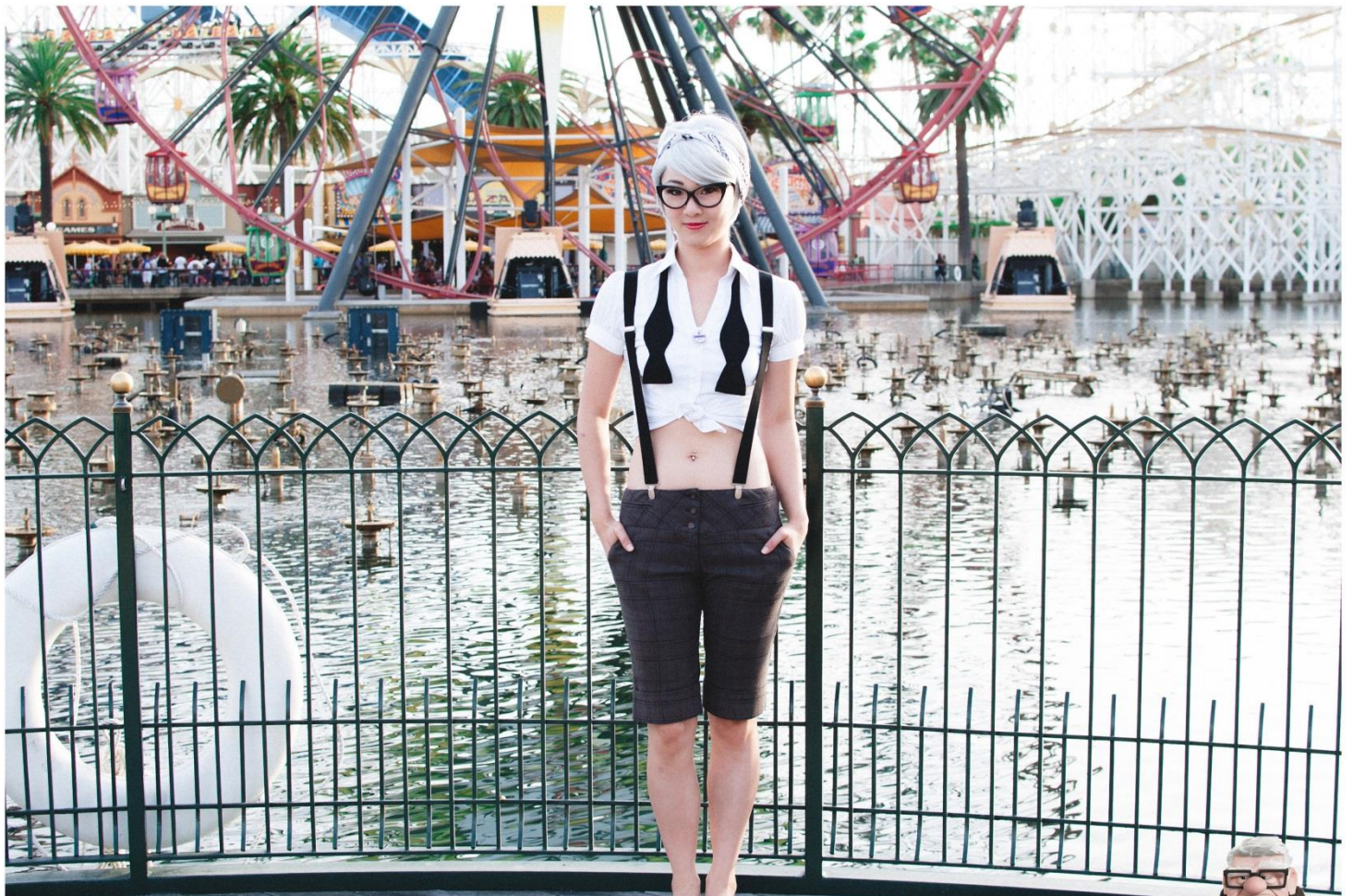
Cat eared headband, handmade. Frames, Theo. Scarf, handmade. Goggles, customised vintage. Tailcoat, House of Secrets Incorporated. Top, House of Secrets Incorporated. Belt, Moda Stoffen. Bag, vintage. Hip bag, Eastpak. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Tail, handmade. Leggings, American Apparel. Spats, House of Secrets Incorporated. Boots, Kickers. Umbrella, Lollipops Paris. Accessories, Accessorize, etsy sellers, handmad, Moon Raven Designs, Pandora, vintage.





RUSSELL
UP, animated movie





CARL FREDRICKSON
UP, animated movie





BALLOONS

UP, animated movie

Sunglasses, model's own.
Dress, made by Samantha's mother.
Shoes, model's own.





DUFFY THE DISNEY BEAR, MICKEY MOUSE'S TEDDY BEAR

originally a Tokyo Disney Sea only original character, but now an international themepark character

Duffy themed mouse ears, Tokyo Disney Sea. Duffy sailor top, handmade by Matthew. Shorts, H&M. Duffy patch on shorts, etsy seller. Shoes, Aldo. Plush holding strap, handmade by Matthew. Duffy plush, model's own. Accessories, Disney.



GELATONI, DUFFY'S NEW FRIEND

Tokyo Disney Sea, themepark original character

Beret, ebay seller. Frames, Theo. Scarf, handmade. Brooch on scarf, handmade. Cardigan, H&M. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Gelatoni bag, customised (restrapped) Tokyo Disney Sea. Tights, Soxi. Sneakers, Converse. Duffy bag, Tokyo Disney Sea.



MICKEY MOUSE AND MINNIE MOUSE

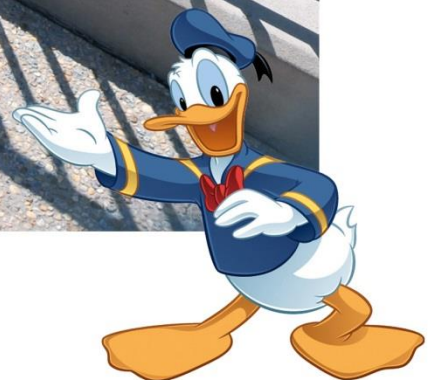
Classic Disney characters, animation

MICKEY:

Mouse eared headband, Joann fabrics. Sunglasses, model's own. Bow tie, ebay seller. Shirt, Target. Mickey Mouse print suspenders, thrifted. Duffy the Disney bear bag, Walt Disney World. Trousers, Hot Topic. Sneakers, Converse. Mickey Mouse glove, Walt Disney World. Accessories, all Walt Disney World.

MINNIE:

Hairbows, handmade by Megan. Necklace, Betsy Johnson. Minnie Mouse coin purse, Walt Disney World. Dress, Hot Topic. Shoes, vintage, thrifted.



DONALD DUCK

Classic Disney character, animation

Hat, 1990s Walt Disney World merchandise. Donald Duck sailor top, handmade by Matthew. Shorts, H&M. Duffy patch on shorts, etsy seller. Socks, Forever 21. Sneakers, Converse. Accessories, model's own.



DONALD DUCK

Classic Disney character, animation



T-shirt, offbrand. Sailor top, offbrand. Shorts, Metamorphose Temps de Fille. Socks, ebay seller. Sandals, offbrand. Donald Duck plushie, Walmart. Accessories, Spinns, Chocomint.



**THE FAB FIVE: DONALD DUCK, DAISY DUCK,
MICKEY MOUSE, MINNIE MOUSE AND GOOFY**
DISNEYBOUNDING GROUP AT TOKYO DISNEYLAND
Classic Disney characters, animation





© Dan Brace
www.charactercentral.net

MAX GOOF

Goof Troop, animation. Special version based on the character costume from the "Easter in New York" parade in Tokyo Disney Sea





SNOW WHITE

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, animated movie.

Headband, Baby the Stars Shine Bright. Top, Zara. Necklace, Disney Couture. Bracelet, handmade by Cate. Skirt, Baby the Stars Shine Bright. Bag, Sanrio. Shoes, Baby the Stars Shine Bright.





RAPUNZEL

Tangled, animated movie

TOO WILD

*Too Wild Agency,
Providing services to Artists*

Promotion - Photoshoot
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toowild.agency@gmail.com

www.too-wild.com



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



COALESCAREMONIUM SNAP

Saturday, April 11; Le Bouche à Oreille, Etterbeek, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



ANTWERP CONVENTION SNAP

Sunday, April 26; Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Babs Barring and Hilde Heyvaert.



WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN SNAP

May 22-25, various venues, Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.





炎天 ATSUSACON

July 19 & 20th, ICC Gent

Saturday 10h - 20h

Sunday 10h - 18h



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

For more events in the United Kingdom, also make sure to keep an eye on the Japan Underground event calendar:
<https://japanunderground.wordpress.com/upcoming-events>

JULY 2015

Japan Expo
Date: 2 – 5
Venue: Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord-Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo-paris.com/en

G.L.A.M.S. Glamnight tour
2: La Marquise, Lyon, France
3: Rock Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
4: Garage Deluxe, Munich, Germany
5: REPLUGGED, Vienna, Austria
10: Dame C, Lille, France
11: Fan Base Project, Den Hague, The Netherlands
12: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium
16: venue TBA, Cologne, Germany
18: Atsusacon, Ghent, Belgium
19: Klub, Paris, France

THE BAWDIES In Europe
3: Pitcher, Düsseldorf, Germany
5: La Boule Noire, Paris, France
7: The Underworld, London, UK



Sancta Machina
Date: 4 – 5
Venue: Radboud castle
City: Medemblik
Country: The Netherlands
www.kasteelradboud.nl

Starcom
Date: 5
Venue: ICC
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.starcom.tv

Atsusacon
Date: 18 - 19
Venue: ICC
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.atsusacon.be



D.E.S.C./FantasiaFest
Date: 25 - 26
City: Meppel
Country: The Netherlands
www.fantasiafest.nl

Castlefest
Date: 31
Venue: Castle Keukenhof
City: Lisse
Country: The Netherlands
<http://castlefest.nl/en>

AUGUST 2015

Castlefest
Date: 1 - 2
Venue: Castle Keukenhof
City: Lisse
Country: The Netherlands
<http://castlefest.nl/en>

SEPTEMBER 2015

Elfia Arcen
Date: 19 – 20
Venue: grounds of Arcen Castle
City: Arcen
Country: The Netherlands
www.elfia.com

Dapper Day/Dapper Day Soirée
Date: 26
Venue: Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
<http://dapperday.com/fall-2015-disneyland-paris>

FACTS
Date: 26 – 27
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

OCTOBER 2015

Ailleurs en Folie Tokyo
Date: 15 - 25
Venue: La Maison Folie
City: Mons
Country: Belgium
www.mons2015.eu

DECEMBER 2015

International lolita day
Date: 5
WORLDWIDE

Rufflebutt Christmas
lolita fashion holiday
Date: 28
WORLDWIDE

APRIL 2016

COALESCAREMONIUM
Art Nouveau Noise
Date: 2
Venue: Bouche à Oreille
City: Etterbeek
Country: Belgium
www.coalescaremonium.info



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get a piece in, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance. So you're actually doing me a favour by submitting as soon as possible/before deadline.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute and our readers.

2. Deadline

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can find it right here so it's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 25 is **September 24th**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of June 25th will not appear in the magazine (unless otherwise agreed beforehand). Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be **at least** 2000 pixels and jpg files, the bigger the better!

(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit).

Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be the one held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proof readers and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.



X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACLAUS

on tour in Europe from August 28 - September 13

More info and dates:

x-mas045.com

highfeel.jp/realive